



"Thanatopsis"

(Below is given this poem as it originally appeared in "The North American Review," of September, 1817. It will be interesting to compare this earliest, with the latest, most familiar form of the poem.)

"Yet a few days, and thee,
The all-beholding sun shall see no more
In all his course; nor yet in the cold ground,
Where thy pale form was laid with many tears,
Nor in the embrace of ocean, shall exist
Thy image. Earth, that nourished thee, shall claim
Thy growth, to be resolved to earth again;
And, lost each human trace, surrendering up
Thine individual being, shalt thou go
To mix forever with the elements;
To be a brother to the insensible rock,
And to the sluggish clod which the rude swain
Turns with his share and treads upon. The oak
Shall send his roots abroad, and pierce thy mould.
Yet not to thy eternal resting place
Shalt thou retire alone—nor could'st thou wish
Couch more magnificent. Thou shalt lie down
With patriarchs of the infant world—with kings,
The powerful of the earth—the wise, the good,
Fair forms, and hoary seers of ages past—
All in one mighty sepulcher.—The hills,
Rock-ribbed and ancient as the sun—the vales
Stretching in pensive quietness between;
The venerable woods—the floods that move
In majesty—the complaining brooks,
That wind among the meads and make them green,
Are but the solemn declarations all
Of the great tomb of man. The golden sun,
The planets, all the infinite host of heaven
Are glowing in the sad abodes of death
Through the still lapse of ages. All that tread
The globe are but a handful to the tribes
That slumber in its bosom. Take the wings
Of morning, and the Borean desert pierce;
Or lose thyself in the continuous woods
That veil Oregon, where he hears no sound
Save his own dashings—yet, the dead are there,
And millions, in those solitudes, since first
The flight of years began, have laid them down
In their last sleep—the dead reign there alone.
So shalt thou rest—and what if thou shalt fall
Unnoticed by the living, and no friend
Take note of thy departure? Thousands more
Will share thy destiny. The tittering world
Dance to the grave. The busy brood of care
Plod on, and each one chases as before

His favorite phantom. Yet all these shall leave
Their mirth and their employments, and shall come
And make their bed with thee!"
—Bryant.

"Making Money at Home"

This time of year this question comes to the fore quite often. Despite the fact that many girls and women resent the advice to consider the trade of dressmaking as a money-making business to be carried on in the home, or the home neighborhood, it is well known that many women not only make a living, through following it, but also lay up quite a little money besides, every season. This is one of the avenues that is never crowded at the top. For good work, good wages may be demanded, and the really good home dressmaker is never out of work. Dressmaking, in common with other businesses, has its full share of trials and troubles; but I do not know of any trade or business, or profession that has not. There is no royal road to anywhere. It is a constant complaint, in the shop or in the home, that it is almost impossible to get workers into whose hands expensive materials may be placed with any assurance that the finished garment will be at all satisfactory. Yet one can go into an establishment where the work is done by men and, given a few measurements, go away confident that they will soon be in possession of a costume or gown, the "fit" and workmanship of which will be unquestioned. Why? For one thing, the "sewing men" do not take up their trade "just as it comes," but go through special training, learning the business just as they would any other trade. Even if a girl or woman does not "make money" at the work, she can, if she knows how to do the work, save quite a sum by making her own garments, and the garments for the rest of the family. The cost of hiring even inexpensive stuffs made up, and especially dresses or costumes, is, in many instances, prohibitive, and the work not always satisfactory.

A Supply of Soft Water

Every housewife can do better work if she has a supply of soft water for laundry and toilet purposes, and the lack of it is so often accountable only to the negligence or lack of enterprise on the part of the gude mon, that one is sometimes surprised at the quiet manner in which she puts up with it. Soft water in abundance can be supplied through either a cistern of large enough dimensions to hold a sufficient quantity to answer the demands of the house in every department or one of smaller dimensions, intended for laundry and toilet uses alone. But the small one is a doubtful economy, as it would cost but very little more to make one of the larger size. If not a regular cemented cistern, then a large barrel may be sunken into the ground convenient to a trough or spout used for conveying the water from the roof to the receptacle; or, if this is barred, then a barrel, tub, or tank into which the drippings from the house eaves may be directed by means once employed by our mothers—a board propped up between the eaves and the receptacle. The "barrel" business, however, should be but a temporary affair, used only until the cistern could be

dug. For all purposes, soft water is so immeasurably superior to the hard water of most of wells and springs, and so much easier to get at, one can but wonder why every farm home is not supplied with a cistern, even though there is a well right at the door.

In cities and large towns, the water from the roofs is so generally impregnated with soot, atmospheric dust, and the droppings of all kinds that lodge on the roof and in the eave-troughs, that it is not so desirable for drinking and culinary purposes, unless it is well filtered. But even with this, it is often but a choice of evils, as one does not always know what may be lodged in the reservoirs or "settling basins," from a decaying water-bug up to a dead animal or human being, while one is never sure, even in the most sparkling country stream, over or through what manner of soluble material it may run on its way to the basin, well or spring. A well-filtered cistern is the best receptacle for water for all purposes.

Wintering House Plants

In houses where gas is used for fuel and lighting, or where the hard coal baseburner is not strictly airtight, most of us find it very unsatisfactory to try to keep house plants. I have never heard of any way to overcome the difficulty, and but few of us have a conservatory or a plant room proper. It is quite a sacrifice for the flower lover to have to let her plants die, and the only way they can be safely kept is by having a plant pit. This need not be an expensive affair, and any one who can dig in the ground can do most of the work, while a few second-hand window sash will answer for the covering.

Dig a hole in some spot where the sunshine can be had all day, if possible. The hole may be of any desired size, from one that a single sash will cover, to the more pretentious one resembling a small green house. For a few plants—say, 100 pots, the pit may be three to five feet wide, as long as one wished, and three feet deep. A sloping situation is best, on account of drainage, with the slope to the south or south-east. In the bottom a layer of soft-coal cinders two or three inches deep is good. The walls inside may be boarded up, or bricked, or cemented entire, which latter will keep out all vermin as well as water. On the north side the wall should be built up two or three feet, or even higher, making the north wall from the bottom of the pit about six feet high for a small pit; higher for a large one. A frame like for a hot bed should be set over this, and the ground be well banked up on the outside, to the top of the back wall, and at the ends. The sash should be fitted closely in the frame, and the glazing well done, every crack, crevice or hole cemented and, for really cold nights, old blankets, quilts, carpet, or other covering should be tucked snugly about it. The inside should be fitted with shelves, in the form of steps, the top one being quite near the glass roof. The sash frame should be closely fitted and guarded with weather strips, and the whole top should be at an angle to readily turn rain, and to let the sun reach the plants on the shelves.

Woman as Inventors

Up to ten years ago, a search of

the patent office reports would have attested to the customary claim of the male doer of things that woman was backward where great originality was required. But behold what a decade has done! Not a page of the official report of patents but that some woman's success is recorded. And not alone this; for each year there is to be found an increasing number of successful women inventors whose inventions are not patented in their own names, but bought outright by manufacturers and business firms who themselves secure the patent.

Inquiry at manufacturing plants and mercantile houses reveals the fact that women employes are constantly suggesting improvements in the machinery and methods employed by the firm. * * * Those acquainted with the field say that fully three hundred of the patents taken out by women within the last ten years are yielding unusually large returns to the inventors, and that others not yet put on the market are destined to be equally successful. When a device can command within a few minutes after being patented, \$20,000, the originator of the idea is quite beyond masculine criticism; and such was the offer to the woman inventor of the satchel-bottomed paper bag. A glove buttoner is yielding the woman who thought out the scheme five thousand a year, and a patented adjustable waist supporter has made the inventor independent. Such examples might be multiplied, but these are enough to show that women who have entered the field have done exceedingly well.

Undoubtedly the opportunities for higher education enjoyed by women today are responsible for their great activity in this new field. The four million women workers in this country are more than industrious. They are bringing great skill and fine training to bear on their work. Woman has become dissatisfied with the few learned professions; she wishes to attest her practical nature; and the fact that she is doing inventive work of a high order demonstrates her efficiency as a practical worker.—Sunday Magazine.

For the Home Seamstress

Before cutting into cloths intended for suits or skirts, the goods should be shrunken. Leave it folded with the selvage edges meeting and roll smoothly in dampened sheets; lay away for twenty-four hours, or until the sheets become dry. This acts as a sponging process, and makes goods of smooth surface proof against rain spots, as well as shrinking.

For tucking materials that will not mark with a tucker, such as cloth, chiffon, and the like, cut a piece of cardboard the width of the desired tuck (that is, a half-inch piece for a half-inch tuck), then warm a flat-iron and, with the card measure off size of the tuck on the goods, pressing it well as you go along. After this stitch them into place, and you will have tucks as good, if not better, than you could have made with the tucker.

To keep the back-closing of the plaited skirt from parting, do not open it in the center back seam if you have an inverted-over-box plait but have the skirt ready for the band, all seams stitched, and pin the plaits carefully. Then slash down on the right inside crease of the center plait. This parting will need but about half the number of hooks and eyes, and will stay closed. Let the band be long enough to reach

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